

PUBLIC NOTICE

POC: Mark Lindflott, tele: 515/284-4370

US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District

Applicant: Iowa Wetland Mitigation Bank, Inc.

Date: October 10, 2001 Expires: October 30, 2001

CEMVR-OD-P-403340

US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the US Army Corps of Engineers

- 1. Sponsor. Iowa Wetland Mitigation Bank, Inc. (affiliate of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation), 5400 University Avenue, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
- 2. Project Location. Section 10, Township 91 North, Range 22 West, Franklin County, Iowa.
- 3. Purpose and Background.
- a. The purpose of the project is to create wetland habitat to compensate, in advance, for wetland impacts that will result from various future activities (primarily agricultural) authorized under the Swampbuster Provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- b. This notice is issued in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and in accordance with the November 20, 1995 Federal Guidance for the Establishment, Use, and Operation of Mitigation Banks signed by the Department of the Army, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Commerce. Copies of the banking instrument can be obtained from Mr. Mark Lindflott, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 693 Federal Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50309 (telephone 515/284-4370).
- 4. Project Description. The sponsor proposes to restore one large wetland basin and three small wetland basins at a 186-acre site locally known as Coulter Marsh. A wetland banking instrument has been developed utilizing Federal guidance for the establishment, use, and operation of mitigation banks.
- a. The large basin will contain approximately 76.7 acres of wetland when restored. The three small basins will contain a total of 4.2 acres of wetland. The 186-acre site has been acquired in fee title by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The NRCS has determined that 26.3 of the 80.9 wetland acres to be restored are currently "farmed wetland". Wetland hydrology will be restored in the four basins by removing or plugging existing tile lines and constructing dikes. Wetland vegetation will also be restored in the four basins and native grasses will be established on the surrounding uplands. The sponsor plans to collect excess water down-slope of the four basins and to install solid tile where required to avoid impacting drainage from adjacent private land.
- b. The IDNR has established wildlife habitat as the primary management goal for Coulter Marsh. Management objectives for the 76.7-acre basin will include water level management practices that encourage perennial vegetation and create hemi-marsh conditions with a 50:50 ratio of open water and vegetation. Natural succession augmented by water level control will be used to revegetate the wetland basin. While this pool will normally be maintained at the designed crest elevation, IDNR staff may periodically regulate the water control structure at the large basin to meet this objective and in response to varying environmental conditions. In some instances, loss of emergent vegetation may result in a partial or complete drawdown of water levels from the normal pool elevation within the December to July period. A complete

drawdown creates conditions needed for moist soil plant germination and growth of perennial plants. Partial drawdowns are used to encourage or maintain desired plant communities. Lowering water levels also provides valuable foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds. If any partial or complete drawdown of the pool is utilized, then water levels will be increased during the Fall to the normal pool elevation which will allow water to move onto moist soil plants and provide foraging and cover habitat for waterfowl. In other instances, water elevations will be lowered in anticipation of high inflows from snowmelt or Spring rain. This will reduce peak water elevations and subsequent impacts on vegetation, facilities and adjacent private lands. Since water control will not be available on the three small basins, their wetlands will be allowed to revegetate naturally.

- c. NRCS's Midwest Regional Depressional Functional Assessment will be utilized to determine functional credits available in the bank. The bank's service area will be the 8 Digit Hydrologic Unit that contains the bank and adjoining 8 Digit Hydrologic Units within the same Major Land Resource Area. This will include all of Hancock and Wright Counties, the majority of Franklin, Hamilton, Hardin, Humboldt, Kossuth, Story, and Winnebago Counties, and smaller portions of Boone, Cerro Gordo, Emmett, Jasper, Marshall, Palo Alto, Polk, Webster, and Worth Counties.
- 5. Agency Review and Where to Reply.
- a. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. The NRCS is the lead Federal agency for this proposed wetland mitigation bank. NRCS should receive a copy of any written comments concerning the mitigation bank. Comments should be addressed

to: Mr. Mark Lindflott, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 693 Federal Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

- b. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers is participating in this matter is as a member of the Mitigation Banking Review Team. The Corps has determined that construction of the mitigation bank as proposed does not require a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). No indication of discharge of dredged or fill material was found to occur in waters of the United States (including wetlands). However, future projects which require Section 404 permits may utilize credits from the bank as mitigation where appropriate. Such usage will be in accordance with the wetland banking instrument which has been developed for the bank.
- c. State of Iowa. The project plans have been submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for authorization of work in the floodplain pursuant to Chapter 455B of the Iowa Code and other applicable state permits. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Iowa should be addressed to: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 900 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. A copy of the comments should be provided to the NRCS (see paragraph 4.a. of this public notice for address).
- 6. Historical/Archaeological. As lead Federal Agency, the NRCS will follow agency procedures necessary for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the development of the wetland mitigation bank. Historic properties studies will be required sufficient for a determination of whether or not historic properties are present, whether historic properties are affected by the mitigation bank, and whether any such properties are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Should properties be found NRHP-eligible, further requirements may be placed upon the bank sponsor to provide for further studies, avoidance of the properties, data recovery, or other appropriate measures prior to approval of the use of the bank site.
- 7. Endangered Species. This project will also be reviewed by the NRCS under their processes for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended.
- 8. Who Should Reply. The NRCS is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be distributed to the members of the Mitigation Banking Review Team. The Mitigation Banking Review Team consists of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Comments should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. Comments should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable.
- 9. Questions concerning Corps of Engineers matters may be directed to Mr. Neal Johnson (309/794-5379), US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-P, Clock Tower Building Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004.

Attach Neal Johnson
Plan Project Manager
Regulatory Branch

REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS: Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page 1.

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FARM BUREAU WETLAND MITIGATION BANK

IOWA WETLAND MITIGATION BANK, INC. IN THE STATE OF IOWA

BANK SPONSOR: IOWA WETLAND MITIGATION BANK, INC. (AFFILIATE OF THE IOWA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION)

LAND OWNER: IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MITIGATION BANK REVIEW TEAM MEMBERS:

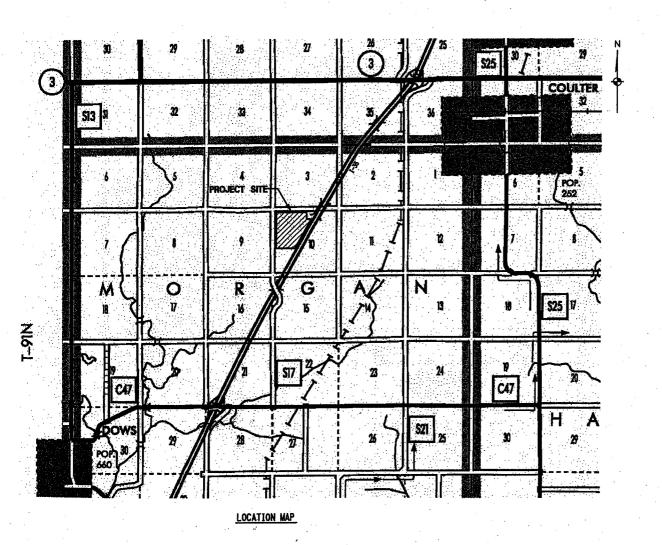
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (LEAD AGENCY)
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 7
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

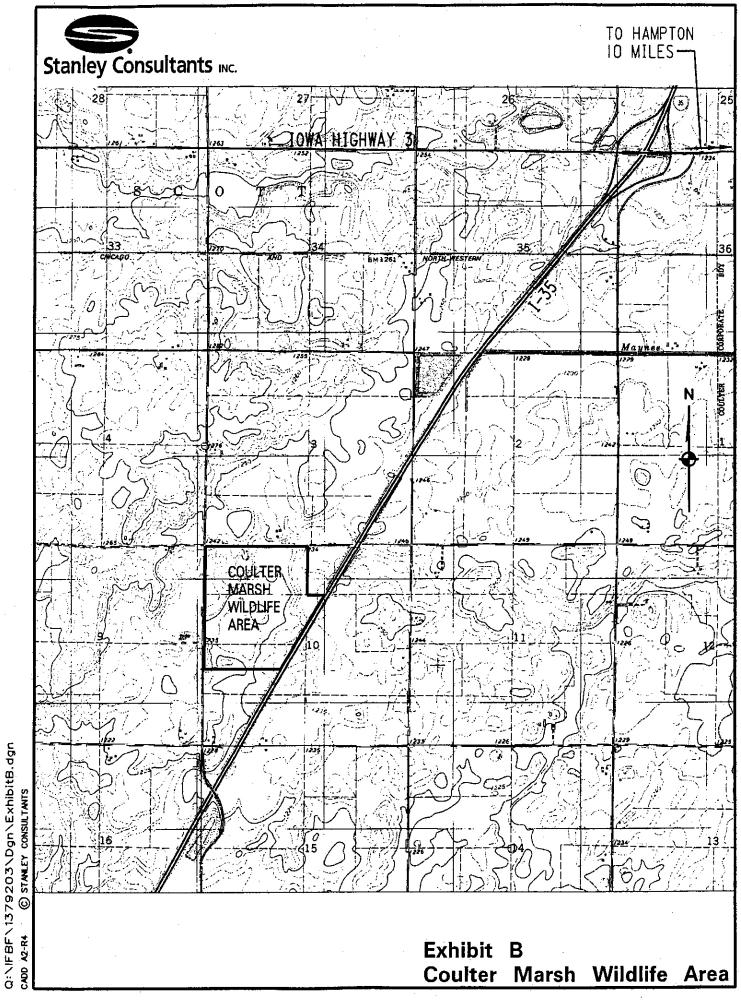
IN COOPERATION WITH:

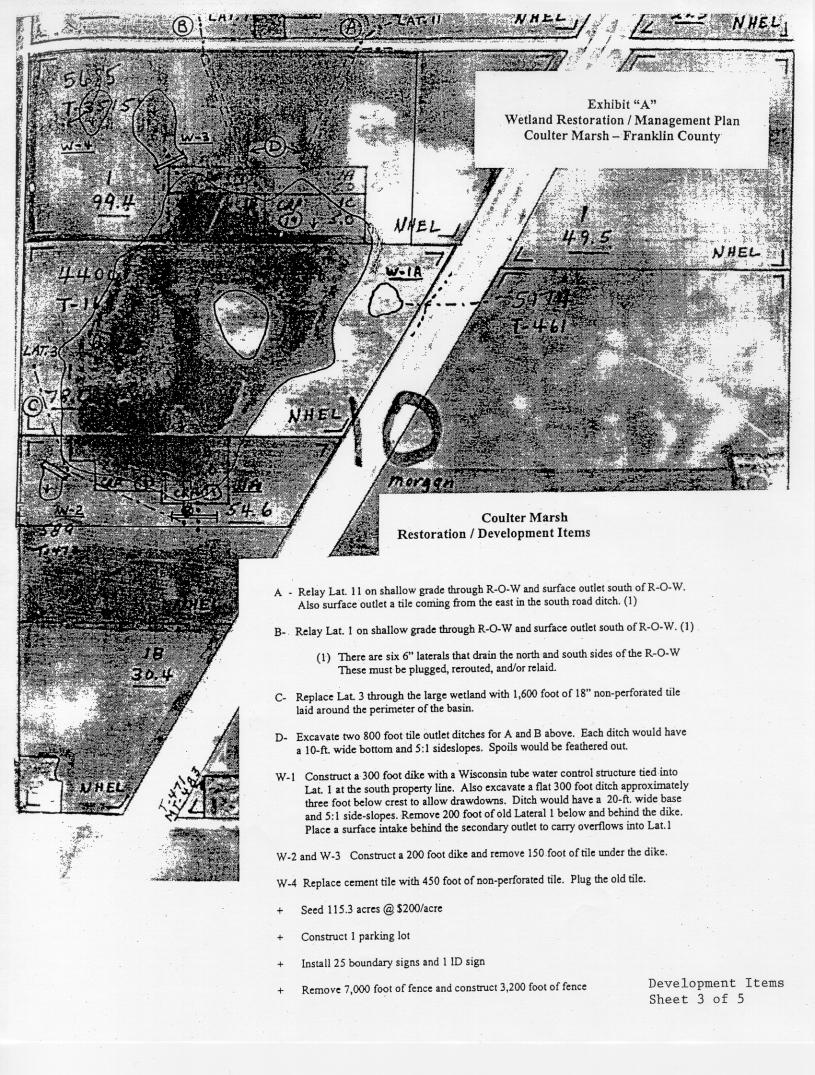
FRANKLIN COUNTY FARM BUREAU FRANKLIN COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #58

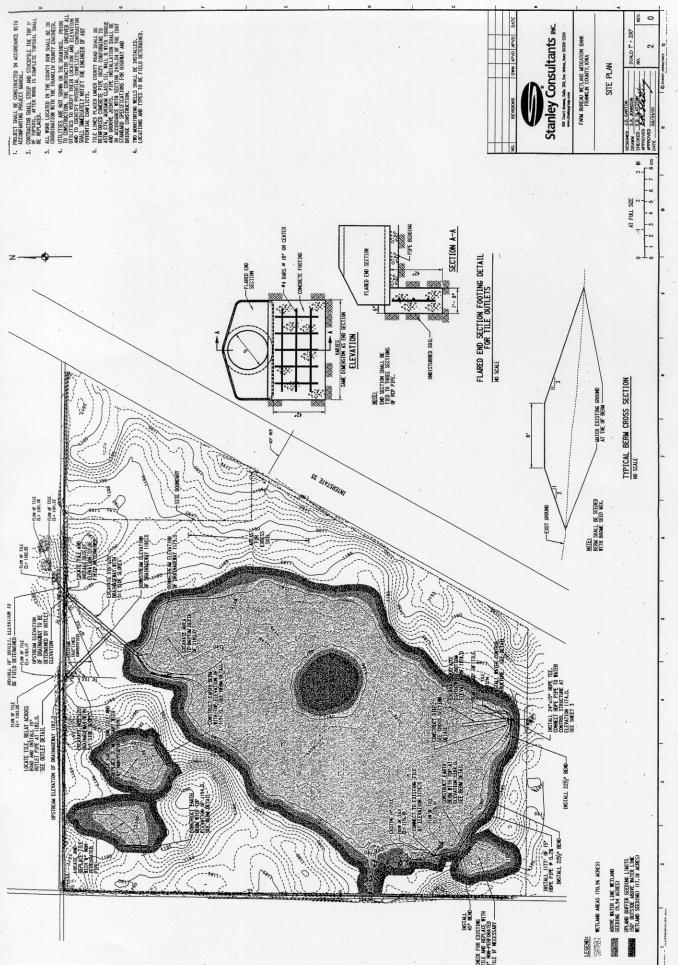


VICINITY MAP









Site Plans Sheet 4 of 5

